

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE - NGANDREWS/TPHDUNLOP:MD

APPROVED BY EUR - JAARMITAGE

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P 141338Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 034268

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, OEXC, RO (VROMAN, ROBERT)

SUBJECT: PROTECTION AND WELFARE (VROMAN, ROBERT)

REF: STATE 30747

1. ON FEBRUARY 12 DEPARTMENT (ANDREWS) CALLED IN ROMANIAN
CHARGE IONITA AND INFORMED HIM OF OUR SERIOUS CONCERN AT
CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE AND TRANSMISSION OF STATE SECRETS
BROUGHT AGAINST U.S. EXCHANGE PROFESSOR VROMAN. DEPARTMENT
NOTED THAT VROMAN RECEIVED MISADDRESSED LETTER IN SEATTLE
IN MID-JANUARY FROM MILITARY TRIBUNAL IN BUCHAREST WITH
STAMP OF MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ON IT INVITING HIM TO APPEAR
FEBRUARY 6 TO RESPOND TO CHARGES UNDER ARTICLE 159 OF
ROMANIAN PENAL CODE. VROMAN HAD NO IDEA WHAT ARTICLE 159
WAS ALL ABOUT AND WROTE EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION. NATURE
OF CHARGES IS STILL UNCLEAR TO US. NOTING EMBASSY'S
DEMARCHES MFA JUSTICE AND INTERIOR, DEPARTMENT OBSERVED
THAT MFA WAS COMPLETELY UNINFORMED OF THE MATTER ALTHOUGH
U.S. CITIZEN WAS OBVIOUSLY INVOLVED. IONITA WAS TOLD WE
COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE ROMANIAN MANNER OF HANDLING
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THIS CASE COULD BENEFIT U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE HAD JUST SIGNED A CULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND WHEN WE WERE ENGAGED IN SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON A TRADE AGREEMENT AIMED AT FURTHER EXPANDING OUR RELATIONS

WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE SUPPORT AND APPROVAL OF CONGRESS. THE TRIAL AND CONVICTION OF VROMAN, WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN TO U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND ACADEMIC CIRCLES, WHICH WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE, WAS BOUND TO LEAVE A VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT. DEPARTMENT COULD ONLY WISH THAT ENTIRE MATTER COULD BE PUT ASIDE. IONITA WAS ASKED TO CONVEY VERY SERIOUS VIEW WE TOOK OF THIS CASE.

2. IONITA REPLIED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE DETAILS OF THE CASE BUT WOULD RELAY DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN AND REQUEST CLARIFICATION.

3. EARLIER IN THE DAY DEPARTMENT OFFICER HAD MENTIONED VROMAN MATTER TO ROMANIAN CONSUL EDU WHO SAID HE HAD RECEIVED VROMAN'S LETTER (COPY POUCHED) AND HAD ALREADY QUERIED BUCHAREST TELEGRAPHICALLY. ONLY COMMENT EDU MADE WAS THAT VROMAN "OF COURSE COULD HIRE A LAWYER IN BUCHAREST TO REPRESENT HIM." INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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